

REMARKS**I. Introduction**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application, but stand rejected by the Current Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). As the remarks below demonstrate, however, each of claims 1-20 contain limitations that are not taught by the cited art.

Claims 1, 9, and 16 have been amended to more clearly claim the invention. Support for the amendments may be found, at least, in the specification at page 13. No new matter has been added.

II. Arguments

The Current Action rejects claims 1-20, and concludes that Hedberg et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,026,505 (hereinafter *Hedberg*) anticipates them. In order to be considered anticipatory, however, M.P.E.P. § 2131 requires that *Hedberg* teach every element of claims 1-20. The Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-20 each contain limitations that are not taught by *Hedberg*.

For example, claim 1 recites:

determining if cells in each column group of the memory array are defective, wherein each said column group includes more than one column;

configuring multiple-column column groups of said memory array to replace ones of said column groups which include more than a predetermined number of defective cells with spare column groups

The method of claim 1, therefore, interacts with column groups of the memory. In contrast, *Hedberg* interacts with the memory array one column at a time, and, appears unable to configure column groups and unable to make determinations about cells as they relate to a column group. Because *Hedberg* lacks these features, *Hedberg* does not teach all of the limitations of claim 1, and the Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

A similar examination of claim 9 reveals that it too contains limitations not taught by *Hedberg*. Claim 9 recites “a column group reconfigurer for replacing ones of said column groups which contain a predetermined number of non-operational cells, wherein each said column group includes more than one column.” *Hedberg*, again, does not appear to be capable of configuring columns into groups, and thus does not teach every limitation of claim 9. The Applicant respectfully asks the examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 9.

In the same manner, claim 16 contains limitations not taught by *Hedberg*. Claim 16 recites “configuring column groups of said memory array to replace ones of said column groups including said remaining defective cells, wherein each said column group includes more than one column.” As demonstrated above, *Hedberg* does not appear to be capable of configuring column groups, as it contains only the capability of interacting with columns one at a time. *Hedberg*, therefore, does not teach every element of claim 16 either, and the Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 16.

Claims 2-8, 10-15, and 17-20 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 9, and 16, respectively. Although claims 2-8, 10-15, and 17-20 contain limitations that make them patentable in their own right, they are at least patentable because claims 1, 9, and 16 are patentable. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to claims 2-8, 10-15, and 17-20 as well.

III. Conclusion

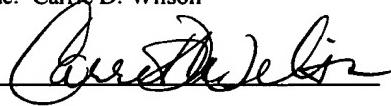
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 10004543-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV482737039US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment; Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

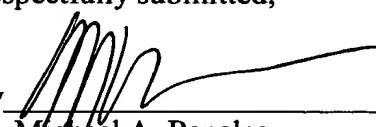
Date of Deposit: May 10, 2004

Typed Name: Carrie D. Wilson

Signature: 

Respectfully submitted,

By


Michael A. Papalas
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No.: 40,381

Date: May 10, 2004

Telephone No. (214) 855-8186